Crash in price of coconut

799. PROF. P.J. KURIEN: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is aware that the coconut growers are in distress because of the crash in price of coconut;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the action Government will take to ensure the remunerative price to the account growers?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI KANTI LAL BHURIA):

(a) and (b) Wholesale prices of coconut in the country which remained depressed in 2007 have started increasing from January, 2008 onwards. As against the annual average of the Wholesale Prices Index (WPI) for Coconut fresh at 130.0 (with base 1993-94=100) for the year 2006, the average of WPI for January and February of 2008 (first three weeks) has increased to 135.3.

(c) With a view to provide remunerative prices to coconut growers in the country, the Government has been fixing the Minimum Support Prices (MSPs) for Milling and Ball Copra on annual basis and undertaking procurement operation through the National Agricultural Cooperative Marketing Federation Ltd. (NAFED). The MSP for Milling and Ball Copra fixed for 2008 season are Rs. 3600/- and Rs. 3910/- per quintal respectively.

Further, the Government would be fixing the MSP for mature dehusked coconut from 2008 season in consultation with the State Governments, NAFED and other concerned. This is expected to provide price support directly to the coconut farmers.

Implementation of programmes under NFSM in Orissa

800. SHRI B.J. PANDA:
MS. PRAMILA BOHIDAR:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether in order to boost the economy of the farmers, Orissa Government proposes to implement programmes under the National Food Security Mission and the Rashtriya Krishi Vikas Yojana;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the State Government has submitted a proposal of Rs. 850 crores to the National Food Security Mission for taking up various agricultural activities under this project; and

(d) if so, the details along with status thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI KANTI LAL BHURIA) (a) to (d) The National Food Security Mission (NFSM) and Rashtriya Krishi Vikas Yojana (RKVY) have been launched during Rabi 2007-08 in the country including Orissa. The NFSM is implemented in selected districts while RKVY is implemented in all the districts of the State through District Agricultural Plans. NFSM-Rice and NFSM-Pulses are implemented in 15 and 10 districts of the State, respectively. For the implementation of NFSM interventions,